

***Dare to Lead: An intrepid group of NAPM – Madison members pursues the CPSM.***

How did you spend your winter? For at least thirteen supply management practitioners, winter activities included Saturday and Monday study groups and a slate of three exams to achieve ISM’s new professional standard, the Certified Professional in Supply Management (CPSM).

Over 2,600 individuals in 56 ISM affiliates (including NAPM – Madison) participated in the ISM Pilot Testing Program. (Pilot testing is a standard practice when introducing a new standard of certification and ensures exams will be both reliable and credible.) The Certified Purchasing Manager (CPM) is being phased out over the next few years, in favor of the CPSM, although CPMs will be able to maintain their certification through the normal process of continuing education and renewal.

Our bold thirteen – started the process of preparing for the pilot exams by meeting in a study group at the beginning of last December. Meeting weekly through February, the study group worked through the ISM study guide for the CPSM. On three Saturdays in March, the intrepid ones took their exams – the last being March 29th.



The “intrepid” ones:

- Brian Hutchinson
- Jack Tatzel
- Mark Ashbrook
- Chongkol Yindee
- Diane Miller
- Rodger Williams
- Melanie Schinker
- Rebecca Farrell
- Pia Penzotti
- Tim Mullen
- Mary Belin

(Not shown but participating in the exams: Chris Carr and Kimberly Dewitt.) Also participating but not taking the exam – Rosealee Backman – who used the experience to get ready for her CPM exams.

NAPM – Madison extends a big “thank you” to Marshall Erdman & Associates and Jack Tatzel who provided the facilities for our study group meetings and subsequently our exams.

The exams in the pilot were pencil and paper, timed, and quite challenging. Results will not be known for another six weeks; so, we are basking in the glow of simply running the gauntlet for the moment. Nevertheless, the process was a great one. We learned a lot about purchasing practice in very different setting than just our own and we developed professional bonds that will transcend just our CPSM pilot program experience.

This fall, NAPM – Madison will be conducting both a three-day CPSM exam review course, as well as, a one-day CPSM bridge review course. Dr. Russ Morey, a great trainer and a real crowd pleaser, will be leading these courses. The dates for these sessions:

- September 16 CPSM Review Exam Review - Module 1 Course
- September 17 CPSM Bridge Exam Review Course\*
- October 15 CPSM Review Exam Review - Module 2 Course
- November 11 CPSM Review Exam Review - Module 3 Course

\*The “bridge exam review” is for CPMs that want to cross over to the CPSM by taking a single exam on the new body of knowledge only included in the CPSM.

The CPSM exam review course is great for preparing for either the CPM or the CPSM since the CPSM includes all the elements of the CPM, plus new bodies of knowledge. The course is also great for those who want to review the highlights of supply chain management – kind of a where are my knowledge and training gaps, so to speak.

What important dates do you need to remember?

- **December 31, 2008** — Last day to register for the C.P.M. Exam.
- **December 31, 2013** — Last day to postmark your C.P.M. Original/Original Lifetime application.
- **December 31, 2013** — Last day to register for the CPSM Bridge Exam.

Regards,

Mark Ashbrook, C.P.M., A.P.P.  
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Vice President & Professional Development Chair